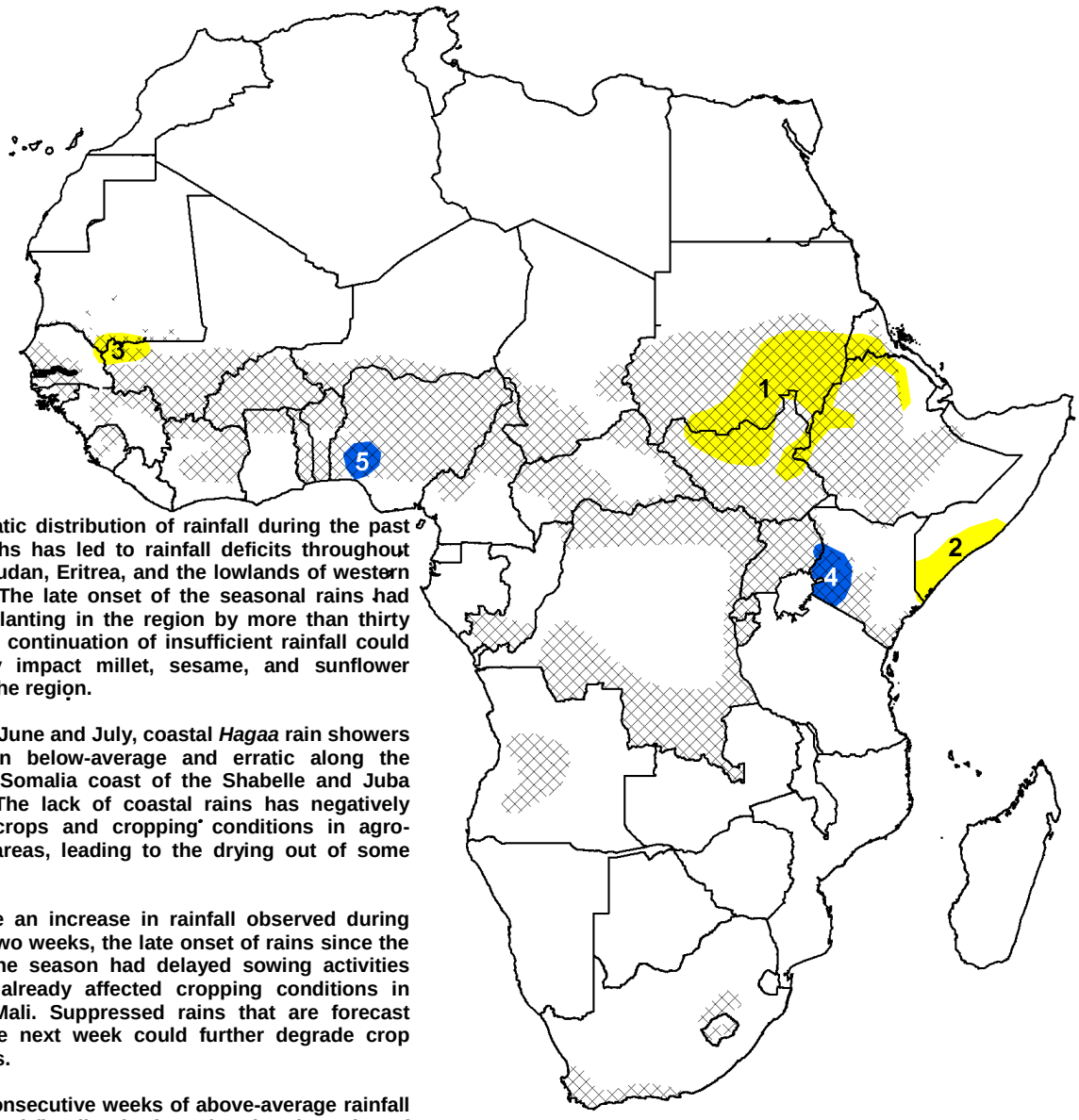
Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook
For USAID / FEWS-NET
September 1 – September 7, 2011

- **Dryness has worsened in eastern Sudan and the lowlands of western Ethiopia, while West Africa has continued to experience an above-average rainfall during the past week.**



1) An erratic distribution of rainfall during the past two months has led to rainfall deficits throughout eastern Sudan, Eritrea, and the lowlands of western Ethiopia. The late onset of the seasonal rains had delayed planting in the region by more than thirty days. The continuation of insufficient rainfall could negatively impact millet, sesame, and sunflower yields in the region.

2) During June and July, coastal *Hagaa* rain showers have been below-average and erratic along the southern Somalia coast of the Shabelle and Juba regions. The lack of coastal rains has negatively affected crops and cropping conditions in agro-pastoral areas, leading to the drying out of some crops.

3) Despite an increase in rainfall observed during the past two weeks, the late onset of rains since the start of the season had delayed sowing activities and has already affected cropping conditions in western Mali. Suppressed rains that are forecast during the next week could further degrade crop conditions.

4) Four consecutive weeks of above-average rainfall have caused flooding in the Lake Victoria region of western Kenya. The heavy rainfall had caused the overflowing of the Nyamasaria, Rae, and Kajulu Rivers, damaged infrastructure, displaced peoples, and destroyed crops. Additional rains could worsen ground conditions in the region.

5) Torrential rains have caused a dam to overflow and have resulted in fatalities, damaged infrastructure, and thousands of displaced peoples in Ibadan of southwestern Nigeria during the past week. Ground conditions could worsen as moderate to heavy rains are expected in the region during the next week.

Legend is very general, please see numbered descriptions for details.

- September Cropped Areas
- Africa
- Favorable
- Somewhat Favorable
- Flooding
- Short-term Dryness
- Drought
- Improving Drought

Torrential rains continue in West Africa.

For the second consecutive week, torrential (> 75mm) rains have been observed in West Africa. Thunderstorms and convective activities have brought heavy (> 50mm) rains across Senegal, Guinea, and western Mali during the past week (**Figure 1**). Heavy rains were also recorded throughout Burkina Faso, northern Ghana, Togo, Benin, southern Niger, and central and eastern Nigeria. In Senegal, western Mali, and portions of northern Guinea, rainfall anomalies have accounted for between 110 and 180 percent of the long-term average during the past thirty days. In southwestern Nigeria, copious (> 50mm) amount of rains during the past week have caused a dam to overflow, resulting in fatalities and thousands of displaced peoples. The above-average rainfall that has been observed in West Africa during the past two weeks could be linked to anomalous westerlies from the Atlantic Ocean. This has enhanced moisture and westward-propagating African waves in the region. While the continuing rains should compensate moisture deficits that have been caused by the late onset of the seasonal rainfall, excessive rainfall surpluses could also negatively impact crops in the region.

An analysis of the moisture index shows an abundant (> 150 percent) soil moisture across West Africa, with extremely moist conditions across southern and eastern Senegal, Guinea Bissau, Guinea, and western Mali during the past ten days (**Figure 2**). Similar conditions were also observed in the areas that have been previously affected by dryness, which had been caused the late onset of the rainfall season. These areas include western Niger and northwestern Nigeria.

During the next seven days, a negative phase of the Madden Julian Oscillation is expected to suppress rains in northern Senegal, southern Mauritania, and Western Mali. Heavy (> 50mm) rains are, however, forecast across the Gulf of Guinea region, with localized abundant (> 50mm) rains in Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Togo, Benin, and coastal Nigeria during the next week.

Satellite Estimated Rainfall (mm)
Valid: August 23rd – August 29th, 2011

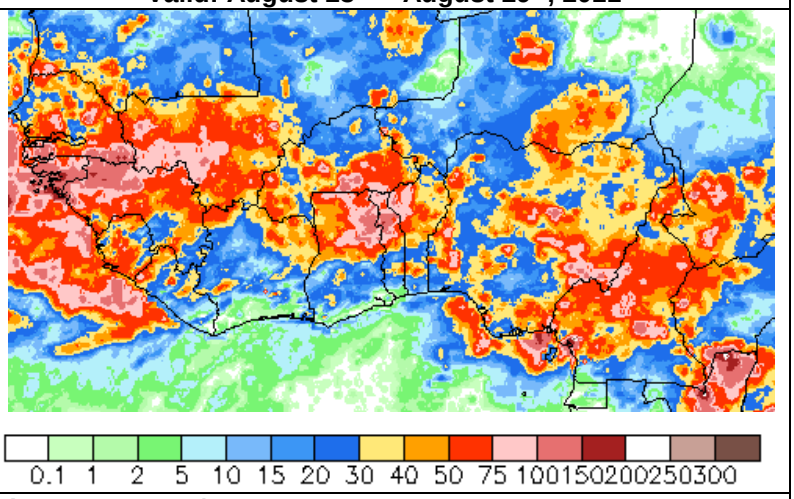


Figure 1: NOAA/CPC

Daily 10-Day Moisture Index
Valid: As of August 29th, 2011

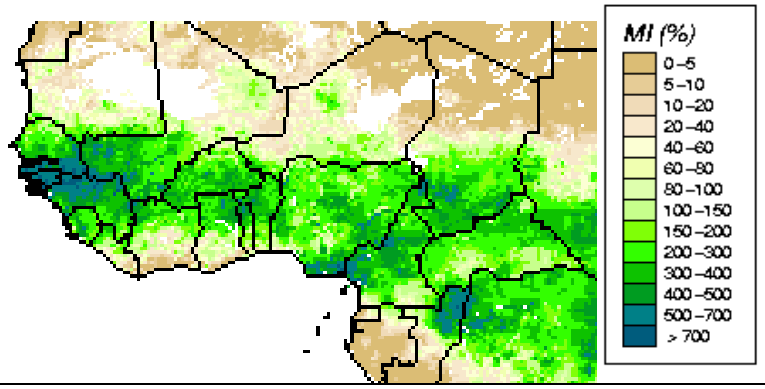


Figure 2: USGS/EROS

Dryness worsens in eastern Sudan and western Ethiopia.

The uneven distribution of rainfall during the past week has strengthened the thirty-day rainfall deficits in the Gadaref and Kassala regions of eastern Sudan and the lowlands of western Ethiopia. In Sudan, localized heavy (> 50mm) rains were observed across the Blue Nile and Sennar regions in the east, while moderate (20-40mm) rains were recorded elsewhere during the past week. Less widespread rainfall patterns were also observed in Ethiopia, with heavy rains recorded over local areas of the western half of Ethiopia during the past week. This has expanded the spatial extent of the dryness in the region, with rainfall deficits ranging from 25 to 100mm during the past thirty days (**Figure 3**). Meanwhile, consistent heavy rains have continued to fall further south in Uganda and western Kenya, causing landslides that resulted in fatalities in eastern Uganda during the past week. For the upcoming week, seasonal heavy (> 50mm) rains are forecast to continue in western Ethiopia. Abundant (> 50mm) rains are also expected throughout South Sudan, Uganda, and western Kenya during the next week. Additional rains over already saturated grounds could lead to flash flooding and landslides in many local areas.

Satellite Estimated Rainfall Anomaly (mm)
Valid: July 31st – August 29th, 2011

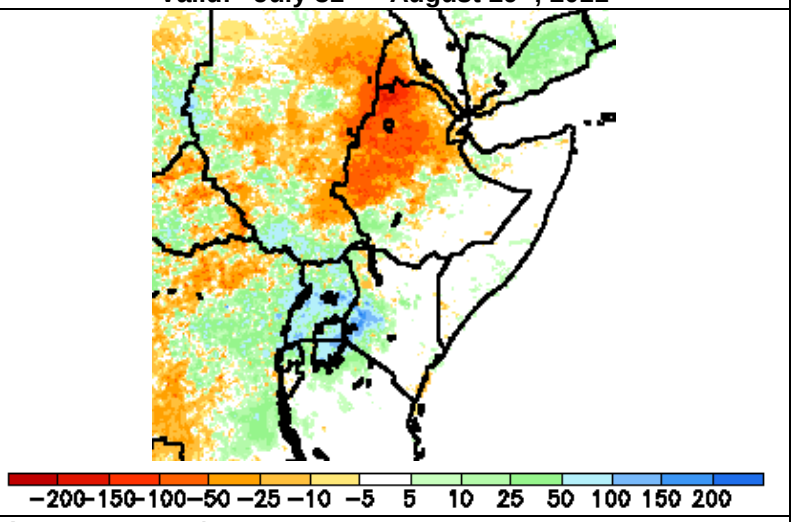


Figure 3: NOAA/CPC

Note: The hazards outlook map on page 1 is based on current weather/climate information and short and medium range weather forecasts (up to 1 week). It assesses their potential impact on crop and pasture conditions. Shaded polygons are added in areas where anomalous conditions have been observed. The boundaries of these polygons are only approximate at this continental scale. This product does not reflect long range seasonal climate forecasts or indicate current or projected food security conditions.